

News Release



For Immediate Release
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Planned Empire Mine State Historic Park

Underground Tour Delayed

The Underground Tour at the Empire Mine State Historic Park which was targeted to open in the spring of 2013 is delayed at least a year. The delay is due to environmental remediation activities and structural issues. California State Parks is now anticipating that the tour will open in the spring of 2014.

The Underground Tour will allow visitors to experience what it was like underground in the historic hard-rock gold mine. Visitors will board the period-appropriate train and travel 875 feet underground disembarking near the main shaft in a historic "stope," a space created by removal of ore, dug in the late 1800's. Visitors will be equipped with hard hats, lights and rain gear for the hour-long expedition.

State Parks is working on an agreement with the Empire Mine Park Association (EMPA) to operate the Underground Tour. EMPA plans tours a minimum of three days a week (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) on a year-round basis.

"We apologize for this delay," said Sierra District Superintendent Marilyn Linkem. "We look forward to announcing the date of our grand opening in the spring of 2014."

For energy efficient recreation –
California State Parks on the Internet: <<http://www.parks.ca.gov>>

